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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/522,808      | 01/31/2005  | Pierre Simon         | 0502-1025           | 6767             |

466 7590 01/12/2007  
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ARLINGTON, VA 22202

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| EXAMINER |
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CULLER, JILL E

|          |              |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|

2854

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE  | DELIVERY MODE |
|--|------------|---------------|
| 3 MONTHS                               | 01/12/2007 | PAPER         |

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

|                              |                        |  |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> |  | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 10/522,808             |  | SIMON ET AL.        |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        |  | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Jill E. Culler         |  | 2854                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7, 8, 12-14 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6, 9-11 and 15-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>20050131</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-3, 7-8 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,141,293 to Corse.

With respect to claim 1, Corse teaches a variable format printing machine, of the type constituted by at least two offset printing apparatus, comprising a frame, 1, 2, supporting a paper cylinder, 13, against which a blanket cylinder, 14, presses a blanket to be printed, the printing ink being supplied on a plate cylinder, 15, in contact with the blanket cylinder by inking rollers, 16, characterized in that: the paper cylinder, 13, of each apparatus is devoid of any drive in rotation and is substantially fixed with respect to the frame, between two adjacent apparatus which print one and the same face of the blanket, the arrangement is such that this face is in contact only with the blanket cylinders. See column 2, lines 40-49 and Fig. 1.

With respect to claim 2, Corse teaches that the plate, 15, and blanket, 14, cylinders are provided with means for rendering them removable, and present a diameter as a function of the format to be printed. See column 2, lines 50-57.

With respect to claim 3, Corse teaches that each printing apparatus comprises sub-assemblies grouping together the elements respectively associated with the inking

rollers, 16, the plate cylinder, 15, and the blanket cylinder, 14, which are slidably mounted on slideways, 19, of the frame under the action of motorization elements which are fast with the latter so that each of these sub-assemblies is adapted to undergo a translation perpendicular to the axis of rotation of the cylinders. See column 2, lines 50-57.

With respect to claims 7 and 8, Corse teaches that the composition roller and the inking rollers associated therewith and the dampening roller all form part of the same sub-assembly. See column 2, lines 50-57.

With respect to claim 20, Corse teaches that the positioning of the paper cylinders, 13, of the printing apparatus is such that the blanket to be printed is distributed in a straight line inside the machine. See Fig 1.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Corse in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,878,666 to Schneider et al.

With respect to claim 12, Corse teaches all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-3, 7-8 and 20 except that the printing apparatus are provided with a

single composition roller of which the diameter is constant and independent of the format to be printed and which is supplied with ink by at least four inking rollers.

Schneider et al. teaches a composition roller supplied with ink by at least four inking rollers, 21. See column 2, lines 42-47 and Fig. 1.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Corse to have the inking arrangement of Schneider et al. in order to more consistently supply ink to the cylinders.

With respect to claims 13-14, Corse teaches all that is claimed, as in the above rejection of claims 1-3, 7-8 and 20 except that at least one of the cylinders is constituted by a removable sleeve, connected to a support cylinder and the composition roller is, in functioning, held at its two ends by two bearings, of which one is provided with means allowing it, at stop, to retract so as to allow the extraction and positioning of a sleeve.

Schneider et al. teaches a cylinder constituted by a removable sleeve, 96, connected to a support cylinder, see column 4, lines 8-22 and Fig. 6, wherein the composition roller is, in functioning, held at its two ends by two bearings, of which one is provided with means allowing it, at stop, to retract so as to allow the extraction and positioning of a sleeve. See column 4, lines 4-22.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Corse to have the printing sleeve and bearing means taught by Schneider et al. in order to more readily replace the surface of the cylinder.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 4-6, 9-11 and 15-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: With respect to claims 4, 9 and 11, the prior art does not teach or render obvious a printing apparatus as claimed, particularly including the cylinder arrangement and servo-controlled means to adjust the position of the cylinder sub-assemblies or to individually rotate the cylinders.

With respect to claim 5, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus as claimed, particularly including detection and safety means allowing two sub-assemblies to move apart from each other when the detection means detect an effort greater than a determined maximum value between their respective associated cylinders.

With respect to claim 15, the prior art does not teach or render obvious an apparatus as claimed, particularly including that at least one of the ends of at least one cylinder is in abutment on a mobile support that is retractable into rest position so that the cylinder can be maintained in overhang by the bearing.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 3,892,178 to Staamann, U.S. Patent No.

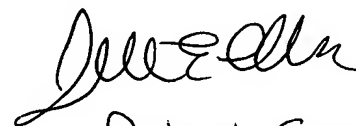
4,774,883 to Mailander and U.S. Patent No. 2,965,023 to Boule et al. each teach an apparatus having apparent similarities to the claimed subject matter.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jill E. Culler whose telephone number is (571) 272-2159. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Nguyen can be reached on (571) 272-2258. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

jec

  
Patent Examiner